

Serial No. 09/559,273
Docket No. F99-144-US

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REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper because it narrows the issues on appeal and does not require further search by the Examiner.

Claims 3-10, 27-29-36 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 3-4 and 32-35 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 1-2, 12 and 28 have been canceled.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 27 and 29-32 have been allowed and claims 3-10 and 33-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant notes that dependent claims 3-4 and 33-35 have been rewritten in independent form. In addition, claims 32-34 have been amended to replace "mm" with " μ m" to correct a typographical error. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 3-10, 27 and 29-36, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.


Serial No. 10/025,550
Docket No. H07-138280M/MNN

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

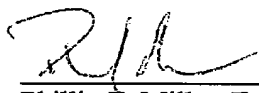
Date: 4/28/04


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment and Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Joseph H. Nguyen, Group Art Unit 2815 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 28th day of April, 2004.


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